

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: CASC, BY

SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF LAYTON TRIAL

1. ENTIRE TEXT (LOU)

2. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS INQUIRED RE: CURRENT STATUS
OF LAYTON TRIAL. JUSTICE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT GOG MAY
BE UNABLE TO CONVICT LAYTON BECAUSE OF REFUSAL OF WITNESSES
TO RETURN TO GUYANA. U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN SAN FRAN-
CISCO BELIEVES IT HAS A STRONG CASE AGAINST LAYTON FOR
VIOLATION OF STATUTE PROHIBITING ATTACK ON CONGRESSMEN.
WHILE JUSTICE RECOGNIZES THE PRIMARY JURISDICTION OF GOG,
IT IS UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECT THAT LAY-

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TON MAY GO FREE.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REPORT ON PRESENT STATUS OF
LAYTON CASE AND TO ASCERTAIN THROUGH CONTACT WITH ATTORNEY
GENERAL SHAHABADEEN OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIAL
WHETHER GOG ANTICIPATES DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A CONVIC-
TION. IF DIFFICULTIES ARE FORESEEN, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO
INFORM GOG THAT ALTHOUGH U.S. HAS NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE
WITH GOG EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION, BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE
AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT PERPETRATOR(S) OF ATTACK ON
RYAN DO NOT GO UNPUNISHED. THEREFORE, IF DIFFICULTIES ARE
FORESEEN AT PRESENT, OR AT ANY POINT IN THE FUTURE, U.S.
WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED PROMPTLY OF THIS FACT BY
GOG. IF CONVICTION IN GUYANA APPEARS UNCERTAIN, U.S.
WOULD WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING LAYTON TO
THE U.S. FOR TRIAL, EITHER BY EXTRADITION OR DEPORTATION.
SHOULD THESE STEPS BECOME NECESSARY, IT IS OUR HOPE THAT
GOG WOULD COOPERATE WITH OUR EFFORTS, AS IT HAS IN ALL

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Chad*

DATE *2/24/81*

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. ☐ REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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ASPECTS OF THE RYAN CASE TO DATE.

4. FYI. IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION CONCERNING WHETHER EXTRADITION TREATY WAS IN FORCE BETWEEN U.S. AND GUYANA. 1931 EXTRADITION TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN APPLIED IN GUYANA PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. IN A LETTER OF JUNE 30, 1966, TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE U.N., THE PRIME MINISTER OF GUYANA STATED, IN EFFECT, THAT PRE-EXISTING TREATIES WOULD CONTINUE IN FORCE UNTIL NOTICE OF TERMINATION WAS ISSUED BY GOG. NO SUCH NOTICE WAS ISSUED RE: EXTRADITION TREATY. THUS, IT REMAINS IN FORCE.

CHRISTOPHER

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